Because learning changes everything.®

Chapter 1: Part 1

Driving Blindfolded

Copyright ©2021 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.

Chapter Outline

- Define critical thinking.
- Explain the role of beliefs and claims in critical thinking.
- Identify issues in real-world situations.
- Recognize an argument.
- Define and identify the common cognitive biases that affect critical thinking.
- Understand the terms "truth" and "knowledge" as used in this book.

© McGraw Hill

Issues 1

What is an issue?

- A question that has been raised.

© McGraw Hill

Issues 2

"Let me tell you why Hank ought not to take that math course. First, it's too hard, and he'll probably flunk it. Second, he's going to spend the whole term in a state of frustration. Third, he'll probably get depressed and do poorly in all the rest of his courses."

- The primary issue is:

  - Whether Hank would flunk the math course.
  - Whether Hank will spend the whole term in a state of frustration.
  - Whether Hank will get depressed and do poorly in all the rest of his courses.
  - Whether Hank ought to take the math course.

© McGraw Hill

Issues 3

"The defeat of the school voucher initiative was a bad thing for the country because now public schools won't have any incentive to clean up their act. Furthermore, the defeat perpetuates the private-school-for-the-rich, public-school-for-the-poor syndrome."

- The primary issue is:

  - Whether public schools now have any incentive to clean up their act and whether the private-school-for-the-rich, public-school-for-the-poor syndrome will be perpetuated (issues are equally stressed).
  - Whether public schools now have any incentive to clean up their act.
  - Whether the defeat of the school voucher initiative was bad for the country.

© McGraw Hill

Issues 4

Elmop: Toilet paper looks better unwinding from the back of the spool.
Marwoof: Get real! That is so stupid! It should unwind the other way.

- Is Marwoof addressing the issue raised by Elmop?
  - Yes.
  - No.

© McGraw Hill

Issues 5

Mr. RJ: If you ask me, there are too many casinos around here already. We don’t need more.

Mr. JR: Yeah? Well that’s a strange idea coming from you; you play the lottery all the time.

- Is JR addressing the issue raised by RJ?
  - Yes.
  - No.

© McGraw Hill

Issues 6

Katie: Hey Jennifer, I hate to say this, but you would be better off riding a
bike to school.

Jennifer: What, this from someone who drives everywhere she goes?

- Is Jennifer addressing the issue raised by Katie?
  - Yes.
  - No.

© McGraw Hill

Issues 7

Dezra: What are you thinking, mowing the lawn in your bare feet? That's
totally unsafe.
Ken: Like you never did anything you could get hurt doing?

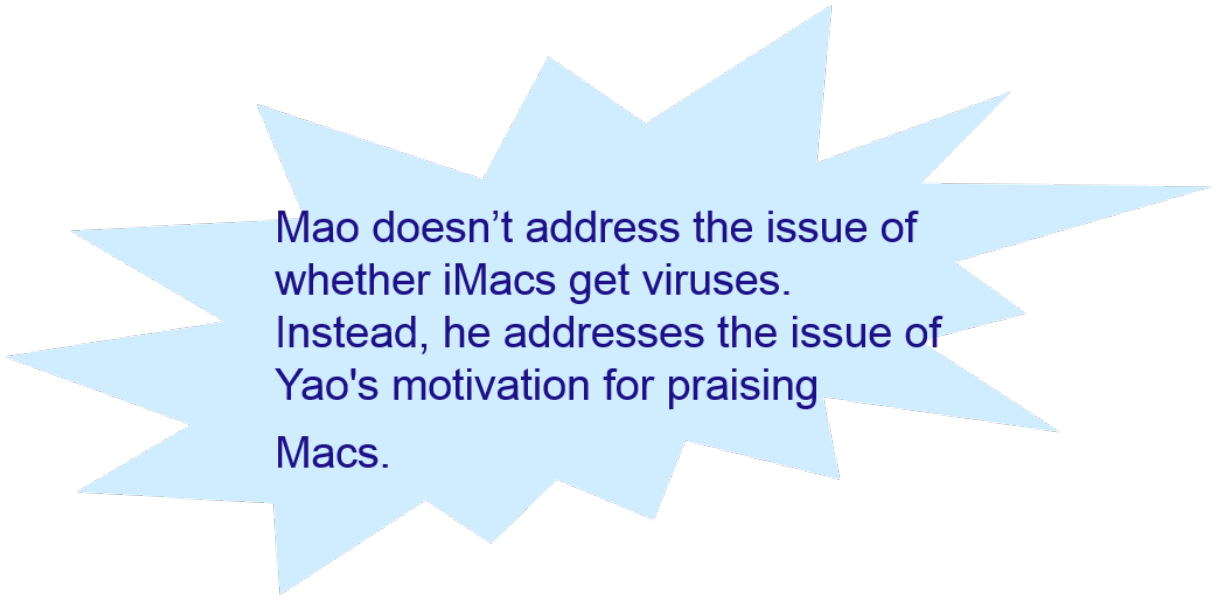
- Is Ken addressing the issue raised by Dezra?
  - Yes.
  - No.

© McGraw Hill

Issues 8

Yao: Nice thing about an iMac. It never gets viruses.
Mao: Of course you would say that; you own one.

- Is Mao addressing the issue raised by Yao?
  - Yes.
  - No. ←



© McGraw Hill

Arguments 1

When you try to support or prove a claim, you give a what?

- Argument.

The part of an argument you try to support is called the what?

- Conclusion.

The part of an argument that does the supporting is?

- Premise (or premises).

© McGraw Hill

Exercise 1

How many premises can an argument have?

- One.
- More than one.

© McGraw Hill

Exercise 2

"The Directory of Intentional Communities lists more than two hundred groups across the country organized around a variety of purposes, including environmentally aware living."

- Is there an argument in this passage?
  - Yes.
  - No.

© McGraw Hill

Exercise 3

"Carl would like to help out, but he won't be in town. We'll have to find someone else who owns a truck."

- Is there an argument in this passage?
  - Yes.
  - No.
- What is the conclusion?
  - The first sentence.
  - The second sentence.

© McGraw Hill

Exercise 4

"Fears that chemicals in teething rings and soft plastic toys may cause cancer may be justified. Last week, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a report confirming that low amounts of D E H P, known to cause liver cancer in lab animals, may be absorbed from certain infant products."

- Is there an argument in this passage?
  - Yes.
  - No.

© McGraw Hill

Exercise 5

"Can it be established that genetic humanity is sufficient for moral humanity? I think there are very good reasons for not defining the moral community in this way."

- Is there an argument in this passage?
  - Yes.
  - No.

© McGraw Hill

Exercise 6

"Computers will never be able to converse intelligently through speech. A simple example proves this. The sentences "How do you recognize speech?" and "How do you wreck a nice beach?" have different meanings, but they sound similar enough that a computer could not distinguish between the two."

- Is there an argument in this passage?
  - Yes.
  - No.

- What is the conclusion of the argument?
  - The first sentence.
  - The second sentence.
  - The third sentence.

© McGraw Hill

Review

- Issue.
- Argument.

© McGraw Hill

End of Main Content

Because learning changes everything.®

www.mheducation.com

Copyright ©2021 McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved. No reproduction or distribution without the prior written consent of McGraw-Hill Education.